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Art Unit: 3202

1. The drawings^{are} objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the claim 1, lines 13-14, the recited feature "a pin...passages" and claims 1, 22 the recited feature "insulative means are positioned between each of said conductive signal pins and the medial wall" must be shown or the feature(s) cancelled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.
2. Claims 1-8 and 10-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 22 the recitation "a conductive signal pin passes through at least some of the passages of the medial wall" is unclear as to how a pin could pass through some of the passages of the medial wall. Also the recitation "insulative means are positioned between each of the conductive signal pins and the medial wall" is unclear since it does not show in the drawings. It appears that each of the insulative means is positioned on each of the conductive signal pins and in each of the passages of the medial wall. It is unclear whether the recitations "at least one exterior conductive shield" in claim 1, line 3 and "an external metal shielding means" in claim 23, lines 1-2 are the same or different. ^{Claim} ~~Claim~~ 1, lines 8-9, "wherein one ...faces" is confusing. Also, it is unclear whether the recitations "ground pins" in claim 1, line 5 and "a grounding pin" in line 17 are the same or different. Claims 2, 3 and 6, the recited feature "the grounding means" lacks an antecedent basis, claims 13-14 features appear to be redundant in claim 1. Claims 15, 16 and 23 features are confusing.

Art Unit: 3202

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8 and 10-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grabbe et al.

5. Insofar as the claims can be understood, Grabbe is applied as follow: Figs. 1-7 show a receptacle 22, a conductive shield (104,100), a conductive header 26, end walls 95, a medial wall 78, passage 16, conductive pins 20, insulative means 90, grounding pins 101 and printed boards 4, 6. Any difference from Grabbe would have been an obvious of modification.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 and 10-24 are have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien Vu at telephone number (703) 308-2099.

Vu/dc
March 31, 1998

Hien Vu
HIEN VU
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